

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising the following steps:
  - a. connecting an originating computer via an online communication system to a central computer,
  - b. providing information from the originating computer to the central computer about the user and the signer and selecting the type of collectible surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed,
  - c. scanning the suspected signature at the originating computer and transmitting the scanned image to the central computer,
  - d. comparing the scanned image of the suspected signature with a selected set of stored signatures at the central computer to determine whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic, and
  - e. communicating to the originating computer whether the signature is authentic or not authentic.
2. (Original) A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object according to claim 1 further comprising the following steps for those signatures that are determined to be authentic:
  - f. printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and printing a second identical hologram for those signatures that are authentic, and
  - g. attaching the second hologram to the collectible.
3. (Original) A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising the following steps:
  - a. scanning a suspected signature that is inscribed on a collectible with a scanner and transferring the scanned image into an originating computer,
  - b. connecting the originating computer via an online communication system to a central computer,
  - c. providing information from the originating computer to the central computer about the user and the signer and selecting the type of collectible surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed,
  - d. transmitting the scanned image from the originating computer to the central computer,
  - e. comparing the scanned image of the suspected signature with a selected set of stored reference signatures at the central computer to determine whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic, and
  - f. communicating to the originating computer whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic.
4. (Original) A method of verifying the authenticity of a suspected signature on a collectible object according to claim 3 further comprising the following steps for those suspected signatures that are determined to be authentic:

- g. printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and printing a second identical hologram for those suspected signatures that are authentic, and
- h. attaching the second hologram to the collectible.

5. (New) A method of verifying the authenticity of a suspected signature on a collectible object according to claim 3 further wherein submitted and generated information is stored in the central computer for retrieval at a future time.

6. (New) A method of verifying the authenticity of a suspected signature on a collectible object according to claim 4 further wherein information regarding said certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and said second identical serialized hologram for permanently attaching to the object that bears the authentic signature is stored in the central computer for retrieval at a future time.

7. (New) A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising:  
connecting to a central computer;  
providing information about a signer;  
transmitting an image of a suspected signature to said central computer;  
selecting a type of collectible surface on which said suspected signature is inscribed;  
comparing said scanned image with a selected set of stored signatures at said central computer to determine whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic; and  
communicating whether the signature is authentic or not authentic.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:  
scanning the suspected signature.

9. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:  
wherein said central computer has a number of reference signatures stored in memory for each signer;  
matching a set of reference signatures for said signer that most closely match the configuration of the object.

10. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:  
matching said suspected signature to one or more reference signatures that are from similarly curved or spherical objects or irregularly shaped collectible objects.

11. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

storing submitted and generated information in said central computer for retrieval at a future time.

12. (New) A method of verifying the authenticity of a suspected signature on a collectible object according to claim 4 further wherein information regarding said certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and said second identical serialized hologram for permanently attaching to the object that bears the authentic signature is stored in the central computer for retrieval at a future time.

13. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

for a signature determined to be authentic:

printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram;  
printing a second identical hologram; and  
attaching the second hologram to the collectible.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

storing information regarding said certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and said second identical serialized hologram in said central computer for retrieval at a future time.

15. (New) A method of on-line signature verification of collectibles comprising:

connecting to a central computer;  
providing information about a signer;  
providing information about a signed collectible;  
providing information about a user;  
printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram;  
printing a second identical hologram; and  
attaching the second hologram to the collectible.

storing all information regarding said in said central computer for retrieval at a future time.

16. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

wherein said suspected signature is compared with a set of authentic reference stored signatures selection of which is based on the user's input as to the shape of the object on which the suspected signature is inscribed.

17. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

wherein said suspected signature is compared with a set of authentic stored reference signatures, selection of which is based on the user's input as to the signer of the object.

18. (New) A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising:

- connecting to a central computer;
- providing information about a signer;
- transmitting an image of a suspected signature to said central computer;
- transmitting a type of collectible surface on which said suspected signature is inscribed;
- comparing said scanned image with a selected set of stored signatures at said central computer to verify or authenticate signatures of celebrities; artists; or athletes that have been scribed onto flat or curved or spherical or irregularly shaped collectible objects.

19. (New) A verification system allowing a user to authenticate a suspected signature on a collectible object comprising:

- an input device able to scan the suspected signature into an information system;
- a transmission device able to transmitting a scanned suspected signature via the Internet to a central computer;
- wherein said central computer is able to compare the suspected signature with a set of authentic reference signatures to verify a signature on a collectible, the selection of said set based on information provided by the purchaser; and
- a certificate of authenticity for a collectible with a signature that has been verified;

20. (New) The system of claim 19 further comprising:

- storage at said central computer storing all information for reference at a future time.

21. (New) The system of claim 19 further wherein:

- said system allows authenticating a signature on a collectible quickly without having to transport the collectible.

22. (New) The system of claim 19 further wherein:

- said central computer is provided with software that compares the suspected signature with a set of authentic reference signatures stored in the central computer.

23. (New) The system of claim 19 further wherein:

- the collectible may be either a flat object; such as a photograph or painting; or a curved or spherical or an irregular shaped object; such as a baseball; basketball; or football;
- the collectible is inscribed with a signature of a celebrity; artist; athlete or other famous person.

24. (New) The system of claim 19 further wherein:  
said originating computer may be a user's personal computer at home or at work or said originating computer may be located at a third part location.

25. (New) The system of claim 19 further wherein:  
said third party location is an authorized agent's place of business and an owner of the collectible will bring the collectible to the agent's place of business for authentication.

26. (New) A verification system allowing a user to authenticate a suspected signature on a collectible object comprising:  
an input device able to receive information regarding a signature and a collectible object from a user;  
a transmission device able to transmit information regarding a signature and a collectible object via the Internet to a central computer;  
a certificate of authenticity for a collectible with a signature that has been verified; and  
storage at said central computer storing all information for reference at a future time.

27. (New) The system of claim 26 further wherein:  
said system allows authenticating a signature on a collectible quickly without having to transport the collectible.

28. (New) The system of claim 26 further wherein:  
an input device able to scan the suspected signature into an information system;  
a transmission device able to transmitting a scanned suspected signature via the Internet to a central computer; and  
said central computer is provided with software to compare the suspected signature with a set of authentic reference signatures stored in the central computer.

29. (New) A verification system allowing a user to authenticate a suspected signature on a collectible object comprising:  
input means for scanning the suspected signature into a personal computer; a portable computer; a palm computer; etc., via either a desk top scanner; a hand held scanner; or a digital camera;  
transmission means for transmitting the scanned suspected signature via the Internet to a central computer that is capable of comparing the suspected signature with a set of authentic reference signatures, the selection of which set is based on information provided by the purchaser, and providing the purchaser with an immediate indication whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic;